

BELGIAN CONGO - SOMALIA

Since the last briefing on the Belgian Congo and the Somali areas the situation has deteriorated there and has become more urgent as independence draws near.

I. In the Belgian Congo the 11-25 May election campaign for 137-member House of Assembly was fairly orderly but no party won a majority.

Present situation one of chaotic confusion as several leaders try to form coalition government from among 29 groups represented in legislature.

A. Leading contender is Patrice Lumumba whose National Congolese Movement won a plurality with 35 seats. However, most of the other leaders as well as Brussels oppose him and have tried a "stop Lumumba campaign."

B. Lumumba's rabble rousing actions have increased panic among white settlers and cast doubt on his capability to govern.

1. Critical of Belgium's tightened security policies, he has threatened violence and a government in exile if not given immediate control.

2. At least 20,000 whites are believed to have left during past few months with extra transport facilities booked solid through August.

II. In East Africa Ethiopian-Somali tension rising as 1 July Somali independence and unification day--British Somaliland and Somalia--approaches.

- A. Emperor antagonized delegation from British Somaliland protectorate by refusing to cede territory or grant them grazing privileges; threatened to stop tribal migration by force. Result: delegation now demands that new Somali state have no diplomatic relations with Ethiopia.
- B. Recently, Haile Selassie harrangued foreign diplomats against Somali union; has demanded border guarantee before Somalia admitted to UN. Issue may become heated at forthcoming meeting of Conference of Independent African States meeting in Addis Ababa on 14 June.
- C. Fear of Somali expansion underlies Ethiopian request of 11 May for more American military assistance.